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# Washington Is Feeling Somewhat Uneasy About the Unhurried Pace of Nixon's Entry to White House

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—“Waiting for Nixon” has become something of a parlor game around this capital, which is always uneasy with doubts about a new hierarchy and about changing fashions in neighborhoods, restaurants, entertainment and policy.

The reason is that Washington has no sense of its new leader yet, not even of his advance guard. President Johnson has begun to speak in the mellow tones of reminiscence about his great moments, crises and achievements, but President-elect Richard M. Nixon has conveyed almost nothing of his dreams, hopes and plans.

Around the Government, therefore, there has been some grumbling that valuable time is being lost to arrange a smooth transition. Defense Secretary Clark M. Clifford and others who have managed previous take-overs had hoped to find Nixon men in the Budget Bureau, Pentagon and other strategic offices by now.

And around the town, ambassadors who need to sound knowledgeable in their cable home are joining reporters in eager but aimless speculation while their wives wonder whether small or large, formal or informal parties lie ahead.

## Approach Not Unusual

Yet, despite this mood of drift here, the record suggests that Mr. Nixon's deliberate approach is not so unusual. He is, by choice, far behind General Eisenhower's transition schedule of 1952, but the lag behind John F. Kennedy's well-publicized pace of 1960 is more apparent than real.

Mr. Nixon called on President Johnson at the White House nine days ago, soon after election than the Eisenhower and Kennedy visits to their predecessors. And though he has not heeded the traditional advice to name a budget director and a few other key officials swiftly, he responded to the Administration's pressure for a foreign-policy liaison officer.

That officer, Robert D. Murphy, is now monitoring the Government's cable traffic on Vietnam, the European monetary crisis, alliance affairs in general and dealings with the Russians. The only other known Republican forays have been one call at the White House by Bryce N. Harlow, Assistant for Congressional Affairs,

and today's apparently routine visit to the President by Gov. Spiro T. Agnew, the Vice President-elect.

Now, as in other transitions, there is a natural tension between the old and new teams. A retiring President and his aides tend to stress their interest in continuity and order, soliciting expressions of support from their successors, as Mr. Johnson has done over the last two weeks. Incoming Presidents, especially of a different party, tend to be wary of the same ducks and are eager to advertise a fresh beginning in many areas.

## Refused to Associate

President Taft and Wilson refused to associate in public and corresponded in private only about housekeeping at the White House in 1912. A similar tension marred communication between Presidents Hoover and Roosevelt in 1932. The March inaugurations of those days and the more leisurely pace of world affairs made it natural for a Wilson or a Harding to disappear for a month or more after election without objection.

When President Eisenhower prepared to replace Mr. Truman in 1952, the inaugural had been moved up to Jan. 20 and his golfing holiday was held for two weeks. Having committed himself to a trip to the war front in Korea at the end of November, the general let management experts and politicians prepare him for many of the top appointments, and he had named much of his cabinet by Nov. 25.

Simultaneously, Mr. Truman pressed his successor for decisions and coordination, a tactic that improved communication but also exacerbated some of the personal tension left by some of the campaign speeches.

Mr. Nixon always felt that some of the Eisenhower appointments had been made in haste. Conflict of interests among the appointees was overlooked, as were some of the political courtesies expected by influential party leaders at appointment time.

John F. Kennedy, too, began with a bang, reappointed J. Edgar Hoover at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Allen Dulles at the Central Intelligence Agency the day after taking our key White House jobs among his campaign aides. But he took greater care to reduce

parties and held up his major appointments until the first three weeks of December.

By delaying his Cabinet appointments until at least Dec. 5 and by making some early symbolic gestures toward his campaign rival, Vice President Humphrey, Mr. Nixon showed some familiarity with the Kennedy timetable and techniques.

Washington had a sense of faster pace in 1960 largely because Mr. Clifford arrived as the chief liaison official between the two Administrations and because the Kennedy talent-hunt in Palm Beach, Fla., Hyannisport and Washington was a more publicized affair than Mr. Nixon's.

Perhaps the crucial difference between then and now related to the difference between the two parties. A Democratic Administration, even a new and relatively personal one like the Kennedys' draws heavily from a familiar cast of characters in Washington, in the New York and Chicago law firms and in the big universities.

But Mr. Nixon's team has been without a political base or tradition and aside from a few men who were young in the Eisenhower years, must form a new group of talented executives and gradually share its newly won power with them.

Uneasy or not, therefore, Washington and the country will have to wait a while longer for a real sense of the next President, and, for all his criticism of Mr. Nixon in the past, the retiring President appears to understand and value his successor's cautious entry.

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